REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 18, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 2, 4, 7, 8, 14, 19 and 22-23 are canceled. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 28-29 are added. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9-13, 15-18, 20-21, and 24-29 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 13 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed June 18, 2004, claims 1-6, 10, 11, 13, 17-21 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,505,040 (Kim) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,148,068 (Lowrey).

Claims 8, 12, 14-16, 23, and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kim and Lowrey in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,575 (Wu).

Claims 9, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kim and Lowrey in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,608,820 (Bradshaw).

The present invention relates to a method and device for setting up a telephone conference between more than two telecommunication subscribers. The group of participants to be included in the conference is stored in a list (see page 3, lines 7-9 and page 8, lines 7-13 of the specification). To initiate a telephone conference, the user may call a virtual number not associated with any participant on the list to trigger the setting-up of the mobile conference (page 3, lines 17-20). In response to the dialing of the virtual number, an element at the telecommunication server end transmits an invitation message to each participant in the list associated with the virtual number (page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 4 and page 10, lines 8-19). The invitation may be sent via WAP and may, for example, comprise an SMS message or WML content (page 4, lines 1-2 and page 10, lines 14-16). Participants that accept the invitation are connected to the telephone conference (page 11,

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lines 7-9). The acceptance by the user may, for example, include pressing a key (see page 12, line 3).

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 2, 4, and 8. Similarly, independent claim 13 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claims 14, 17, 19, and 23. Each of the independent claims now recites (1) that the request for the conference call includes a call to a telephone number that is not associated with any of the subscriber participants of the conference call, (2) that the control device connected with the telecommunication network initiates automatically send the invitations after receiving the request for the conference call, and (3) that the invitation sent to each subscriber by the control device is an SMS message or a WML content.

Kim discloses making a multi party conference call on a mobile phone. According to Kim, the mobile phone is set to a multi party conference mode and the mobile phone searches a subscriber table to determine which numbers to call (col. 7, lines 47-51 of Kim). The mobile phone in Kim then makes a call to each individual party to be included in the call. In Kim, the subscriber of the mobile phone which is used to initiate the conference call is responsible for all calls to each conference member. Since Kim discloses that the mobile phone initiates a call to each individual conference member, Kim fails to teach or suggest "requesting, by a subscriber, the initiation of a telephone conference with the predetermined group of subscribers in the list by calling a telephone number not associated with any other subscriber in the list of a predetermined group of subscribers" and "contacting, when a telephone conference is requested for the predetermined group of subscribers stored in the list by a network element of the telecommunication network, the subscribers taken from the stored list of subscribers for preparing for setting-up a telephone conference between the subscribers in response to said step of requesting", as express by recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

Lowrey discloses a system for managing an audio conference. Lowrey discloses that a conference controller is connected to a PSTN 130 and includes a voice processing server 144 and a web server 146. The voice processing server 144 sends audio invitations to telephones and web server 146 send invitations to the web portion of the conference (col. 3, lines 6-10; and Fig. 1 of Lowrey). To set up a conference, a subscriber sends information to web server 146 or through an operator. Accordingly, Lowrey fails to teach or suggest "requesting, by a subscriber, the initiation of a telephone conference with the predetermined group of subscribers in the list by calling a telephone number not associated with any other subscriber in the list of a predetermined group of subscribers" and "contacting, when a telephone conference is requested for the predetermined group of subscribers stored in the list by a network element of the telecommunication network, the subscribers taken from the stored list of subscribers for preparing for setting-up a telephone conference between the subscribers in response to said step of requesting", as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 13. Lowrey also fails to teach or suggest sending the invitations using SMS messages or WML content. Furthermore, Lowrey fails to disclose teach or suggest a mobile terminal subscriber.

Wu discloses a method and system for coordinating and initiating cross-platform telephone conferences. The Office Action cites Wu to show the use of SMS messages and WML content for sending invitations to prospective conference participants. However, Wu discloses that a user initiates a conference by connecting to a URL of the coordinating server (see col. 10, lines 6-13). Accordingly, Wu fails to teach or suggest "requesting, by a subscriber, the initiation of a telephone conference with the predetermined group of subscribers in the list by calling a telephone number not associated with any other subscriber in the list of a predetermined group of subscribers" and "contacting, when a telephone conference is requested for the predetermined group of subscribers stored in the list by a network element of the telecommunication network,

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the subscribers taken from the stored list of subscribers for preparing for setting-up a telephone conference between the subscribers in response to said step of requesting", as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 13.
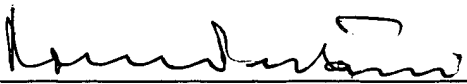
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9-12, 15-18, 20, 21, and 23-29, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 13 are deemed allowable for the same reasons as are independent claims 1 and 13.

New claims 28 and 29 recite that the request for the initiation of the conference call is made by calling a number associated with the list of a predetermined group of subscribers. Support for this limitation is found on page 9, lines 17-21. Neither Kim, Lowrey, nor Wu disclose calling a number associated with a list of particular subscribers for initiating a conference call with the subscribers in the list. Accordingly, claims 28 and 29 are allowable for these additional reasons.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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In response to the   Office Action dated

The following item(s) were filed today in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

[]   Amendment
          []   -month extension of time requested
          []   addition of new claims (independent in excess of three, dependent)

If drawing correction was required in Office Action:

          []   Letter With Proposed Drawing Changes was filed OR
          []   Specification was amended to address drawing rejection

Other items filed at this time:
          ___   Priority Document
          ___   Assignment
          ___   Information Disclosure Statement
          ___   Other: (list) ___